

# NEWS RELEASE

## **Panhandle** **Public Health District**

July 26, 2019

For immediate release.

For more information, contact: ***Tabi Prochazka, 308-487-3600 ext. 107***

The Nebraska State Patrol conducted tobacco compliance checks as part of the Panhandle Prevention Coalition's comprehensive plan to prevent youth from starting to use tobacco products. Officers with the assistance of youth under the age of 18, completed eleven checks including convenience stores, grocery stores and liquor stores throughout the Counties of Bayard, Mitchell, Morrill, Lyman, and Garden.

Seventeen of the twenty-two establishments that were checked did not sell tobacco to minors. The efforts of these twenty-two responsible businesses are commended:

- Kwik Stop – 703 E. Webster Street, Morrill
- DL Foods – 122 West Webster Street, Morrill
- Dollar General – 711 East Webster Street, Morrill
- Skippy's – 204 Jeffers Avenue, Lyman
- Thrifty's Gas & Liquor – 1800 Broadway, Mitchell
- Dollar General – 1308 Center Avenue, Mitchell
- Kwik Stop – 1109 Broadway, Mitchell
- Bayard Tiger Paws – 144 Main Street, Bayard
- Dollar General – 308 Main Street, Bayard
- Dollar General – 319 Main Street, Bridgeport
- Panhandle COOP Cenex – 102 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Bridgeport
- Trading Post – 1121 N Street, Bridgeport
- Broadwater Country Store – 117 Cuthrie, Broadwater
- Oregon Trail Trading Post – 20120 Highway 26, Lewellen
- Oshkosh Superette – 101 east Avenue A, Oshkosh
- Main Street Tavern – 317 Main Street, Oshkosh
- Kwik Stop – 109 Avenue A, Oshkosh

Regrettably, five of the businesses checked failed to comply with the law and sold to the underage buyers. These businesses have been notified and appropriate action has been taken:

- U Save Mart – 202 West Webster Street, Morrill
- Bayard Grocery – 305 Main Street, Bayard
- Sonny's Super Foods – 310 Main Street, Bridgeport
- Thrifty's Gas & Liquor – 105 Bell Street, Bridgeport
- S & S – 207 West Avenue A, Oshkosh

"National research shows that when communities consistently conduct compliance checks and keep failure rates below 10%, children in those communities are less likely to use tobacco products," stated Jessica Davies, Tobacco Free in the Panhandle Coordinator with Panhandle Public Health District.

Training for alcohol and tobacco retailers is available quarterly at locations throughout the Panhandle. This training, sponsored by Panhandle Prevention Coalition and Nebraska State Patrol, provides individuals entrusted with the responsibility of serving alcohol or selling tobacco with strategies to avoid illegally selling to underage youth or intoxicated patrons. Responsible Beverage Server Training is available for free to retail merchants, owners, and employees across the Panhandle. The next training is on August 7, 2019. For more information on the retailer's trainings, go to <http://www.panhandlepartnership.com/training-academy.html>.

Funding for Tobacco Free in the Panhandle is provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

For additional information visit [www.pphd.org/tfn.html](http://www.pphd.org/tfn.html) or call Jessica Davies, Tobacco Free in the Panhandle Coordinator, at Panhandle Public Health District at 308-487-3600 ext 101 or toll free at 866-701-7173. Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.